

ABSTRACTS JUNE 1992

(Katsufakis PJ, Radecki SE: Clinical training in human immunodeficiency disease for community physicians—The Los Angeles experience. West J Med 1992 Jun; 156:619-623)

In the past decade, the increased number of persons being treated for infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has placed an enormous burden on specialty clinics. This is especially true in Los Angeles, where care of patients with the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has been termed a "crisis" situation. Especially in its early stages, HIV disease can be appropriately managed by primary care physicians who provide patients with medical and psychological counseling and refer them to specialists when major AIDS-related complications develop. Physicians completing their training as recently as 5 years ago, however, received little systematic preparation in the care of HIV-infected patients and thus may lack important skills such as the ability to recognize opportunistic infections early in their course. By means of a 1-week intensive preceptorship in a high-volume AIDS clinic, we are preparing community physicians to assume a more active role in providing care for this growing patient population. In the preceptorship, participants receive one-on-one training from specialists in infectious diseases, pulmonary diseases, and hematology and oncology, as well as from internists and family physicians.

Evaluation of the clinical experience demonstrated a greater level of confidence on the part of program participants in treating HIV-infected patients and showed that participants screen and test high-risk patients in their practices and devote a substantial proportion of their practices to caring for HIV-infected patients.

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PHYSICIAN TRAINING
AIDS**

**ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS**

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